

## OLD TOWN HALLS AND THE NEW.

Wellington's Little Town House in the Wilderness and the Magnificent Superstructure of the Booming Little City.

Some people advise the public to build no expensive public edifices. This advice is hasty and even cruel, for many reasons. It will be admitted that some ages did rob the home, that they might build the temple; and one can yet see some form of this injustice in the world. But the world is outgrowing this form of folly, and we all live in a broad west, where the country and village churches, school houses and public edifices rise up among the trees in great beauty and simplicity. Complaint that may have been applied to the far past can not, by any mind that wishes to be reasonable, be laid against the public buildings, which so adorn the villages and cities of this new continent.

The private home is confessed, both in philosophy and song, to be the dearest spot on earth, and all things should be done to embellish and beautify it; but not altogether out of the private homes, has the civilizing education of the world proceeded. The young and old have been compelled, by the laws of education, to meet together in companies larger and quite different from the one accustomed to assemble around the fireside. Hence, politics has its forum, art its school and gallery, philosophy its porch and morals its temple; a high type of civilization seeks to make the public hall, where the people come together in mass, attractive by adornments, appealing to man's love for the beautiful, which is his most elevating principle.

"Excelsior" seems always to have been the motto of Wellington. It was the ruling spirit of the old pioneers who cleared off the wilderness and founded a civilization which has developed into the energy, happiness, intelligence, enterprise and beauty of the Wellington of to-day. They thought out and acted out their own salvation. They were animated by a knowledge and principle that dwells in "minds replete with thoughts of other men," and a wisdom attentive to their own best interests. In all ways the old pioneers of Wellington were typical Americans, noted for intelligence, energy, courage and devotion to moral principles. Even when there was only a handful of them, they built churches in which to worship God, and halls in which to transact the affairs of local government. Many of them lived to a venerable old age, lived to see and enjoy Wellington as it is to-day, the most beautiful little city to be found anywhere. A few of them still linger on the shores of time, whose presence to the people of Wellington, is a benediction and a blessing.

Less than half a dozen, who were adults when they came to Wellington, are alive. Deacon Case is now the living pioneer who has been in Wellington the longest. Isaac Bennett and Austin Finch come next, both having emigrated to Wellington over half a century ago. The venerable Dr. D. J. Johns, earliest of pioneers, passed over the river and was buried on those gala days when Wellington was full of exultation and pride over the completion and dedication of her magnificent town hall. Those were proud days for Wellington, but the death and funeral obsequies of the old pioneer, is suggestive of the early civilization leading on to the grand achievement over which Wellington has a right to be proud. A little log cabin in the wilderness is where he voted and aided in the government of his adopted township, acting as one of the clerks of the first recorded election in the annals of Wellington, sixty-two years ago. He outlived the ten electors who voted with him that day. There was a deep pathos in his death and burial, at the very time when Wellington was sounding the exultant notes of preparation for the dedication of her superb public edifice. The mind ran back over seven decades of Wellington history, and saw the little township capitol building in the wilderness, and contrasted it with the stately and magnificent town hall of to-day.

The industry, enterprise and push of any people is illustrated by the public edifices they build. The works of this kind, with which Wellington is adorned, would be a credit to a city of five times its present population, and surpass, without doubt, the public buildings of any village of its size in Northern Ohio. Not only in public improvements has Wellington shown a progressive spirit, but in the building of business blocks and private residences. Almost within the last two decades the old wooden structures, running each way from the public square, have been supplanted by solid, brick structures. But the leading ornament of Wellington is its magnificent town hall, just completed and dedicated for the use of the people. It stands on the old site where the first town house was erected in 1829.

Before the building of what the old pioneers called their "Town House," elections and town meetings were held in private residences. It is the recollection of the venerable Isaac Bennett that the first election held in Wellington was in the log cabin of either Dr. D. J. Johns or Judge Hamlin. No record of any election, held in Wellington prior to 1824, is in existence. Following is the record of the October election held that year:

"Poll book of the election held in the township of Wellington, county of Lorain, on the 12th day of October, 1824. Benjamin Wadsworth, James Wilson and Judson Wadsworth, Judges of election; D. J.

Johns and E. A. Wilcox, Clerks of this election, were severally sworn as the law directs, previous to entering on their duties of office:

"NUMBER OF NAMES OF ELECTORS:  
Loring Wadsworth, E. A. Wilcox,  
Whitman De Wolf, D. J. Johns,  
James Wilson, Benj. Wadsworth,  
Frederick Hamlin, Silas Boly,  
Judson Wadsworth, Amos Adams.  
Attested by

"JUDGES:  
Benjamin Wadsworth, James Wilson,  
Judson Wadsworth.  
D. J. Johns, { Clerks.  
E. A. Wilcox, }

The electors appear not to have been divided politically, at least on Governor, every vote being thrown for Gov. Trimble. There was no place named in the record where the election in 1824 was held, but it was probably in the log cabin of some citizen, or, if it was built at that time, the electors may have used for a town hall, a log school house which the old pioneers erected near the center of what is now the public square.

At the Presidential election of 1824, of which there appears to be no record, the electors divided politically, and cast six votes for General Jackson. There was also an increase in the number of votes over the October election. Daniel Clifford, lately deceased, and who came to Wellington in 1820, told the writer after the last Presidential election, that the number of votes for President in 1824, in Wellington, was thirteen, of which seven were Federal and six Republican, a majority of one for Henry Clay.

At that early day, as the population of Wellington increased, the native-born public spirit of the enterprising and energetic pioneers asserted itself, and a small, brick building was erected, which they called "The Town House." This was in the year 1829.

No legislative enactment was passed, authorizing the township to bond itself in any sum, to be paid by taxation, for the construction of the "town house in the wilderness." It grew up out of the popular interests, aspirations and the independent, bold, self-reliant, self-assertive spirit of the hardy pioneers. It was a voluntary act, and the funds to liquidate the expense were raised by subscribing their names to the following unique and iron-clad subscription paper:

"SUBSCRIPTION FOR TOWN HOUSE, &c. 1829.  
"We the undersigned agree to pay the sums annexed to our names, to be expended in erecting a brick building at the center of Wellington, in the lower story of which there is to be a school room for the use of the district twenty two feet square and seven and a half feet between joints to be finished with suitable conveniences, the remainder of the building to be at the disposal of the first congregational society in Wellington provided they shall lay a tile or brick floor to the upper story and that said story shall at all times be open for the transaction of town business and funerals, the building of said to be put to the lowest bidder by the directors of the center district in T. Wellington of which reasonable notice shall be given and when bid off we agree to give our notes to the person to whom it shall be struck off for the amount which we here subscribe, payable one half in merchantable neat cattle not over eight years old on the first day of January and one half in lumber suitable for T. buildings and labor, to be paid on demand at any time after the first day of April next, a reasonable time being allowed after notice given, labor to be seventy five cents a day to commence at 7 of the clock A. M. and leave at six with one hour's intermission. Labourer to board himself no labour to be called for after the tenth of July until the middle of August. Lumber to be delivered at the place of erecting T building school room to be finished by the first day of November next.

"Wellington Nov. 10, 1829."  
The subscription paper was signed by thirty-seven "house-holders," as follows:  
Frederick Hamlin, John R. Wilcox, E. A. Wilcox, L. Hawk, F. Herriek, John W. Foot, E. Herriek, Alanson Hawk, D. J. Johns, L. Wadsworth, Benj. Wadsworth, Judson Wadsworth, Amos Adams, Sanford Humphrey, David Webster, Asa Hamilton, Josiah N. West, John Clifford, L. L. Clifford, John Wilson, John Hawk, Benedict Sweet, Franklin Wilcox, Hiram Latimer, Roswell Smith, Elijah Fox, Oris Smith, Samuel Pelton, Spelman Pelton, — Adams, Matthew De Wolf, Eliza P. Foot, R. H. Foot, John M. Battell, Jno. S. Case, Russell B. Webster, Amos Adams, Josiah Bradley, Calvin Adams, John Clifford, Jr., Daniel Smith, A. Kingsbury, John R. Hamlin, Ithiel Battell, Whitman De Wolf, William Webster.

The total amount of subscription for town house was \$119.50. There is no record as to whom the building of "said house" was put, but according to Esquire Bennett, Judge Hamlin was the contractor.  
—We have no account of how the pioneers dedicated their town house, but as the second story was used for divine worship and funerals, the presumption is that it was not dedicated by a theatrical performance. It is safe to say that no star actress astonished the natives by her queenly costumes and superb acting; neither were there any excursion parties from other towns, coming over paths blazed through the wilderness; nor was there any total eclipse of the lights in the middle of the second scene. They were, no doubt, as proud and felt as big over their town house as the Wellingtonians of to-day over theirs, and dedicated it with backwoods exultation and enthusiasm; but it was done in full by "home talent." Probably the dedication was made by a township gathering, where some native orator made a speech, the men afterwards

indulging in athletic sports, and the women chatting about linsey-woolsey gowns, and how to do a venison steak and manufacture pumpkin pie. It is certain there was no scramble for seats in the opera house.

But the town house of 1829 was not a permanent fixture, coming down to us as a memorial of "ye olden times," as did its successor, although the architectural offspring of hardy and resolute pioneers, it died an early death, having become too small "for transaction of town business and funerals." Some of its founders and builders outlived it forty years. But few, comparatively, of the citizens of Wellington to-day ever saw the little town house of the old pioneers. It was dismantled at the age of "sweet sixteen," and its memory is, no doubt, yet fondly cherished as the "dear departed," by old inhabitants. In the year 1846 Wellington erected a "New Town House," on or near the site of the old one. The following "Articles of Agreement" fully set forth and explain how it was built:

"Articles of agreement entered into this sixth day of June 1846 between Alanson Hawk, Isaac Bennett and Oliver S. Wadsworth the school Directors of school District No. 1 in Wellington Lorain County State of Ohio and their successors in office, do hereby covenant and agree with Asa Hamilton, William Hawk and James E. Reed Trustees of the township of Wellington and county of Lorain and State of Ohio aforesaid and their successors in office to do and perform the matters and things following they the said Directors agree to build and finish a building the upper room of which shall be for the use of the Township according to contracts made this day with Isaac Bennett and William Hawk and Hiram L. Hawk for furnishing and doing the work of T building and the T trustees do covenant and agree with the said Directors that they will pay for the same the sum of Four Hundred and twenty five Dollars in the manner following. Two hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents in an order on the Township Treasury on the first day of March 1847 and Two Hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents on the first day of March 1848 with use.

"In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands this sixth day of June 1846."

Oliver H. Wadsworth, } Directors of  
Alanson Hawk, } Dis. No. 1 in  
Isaac Bennett, } Wellington.  
Asa Hamilton, } Trustees  
William Hawk, } of  
James E. Reed, } Wellington.  
F. M. Hamlin,  
Town Clerk.

The town house of 1846, not having been used for the "transaction of funerals," was longer lived than its predecessor, being nearly forty years of age when removed. To the Wellingtonian of to-day it was a familiar object, emblematic of eventful days in the growth and development of Wellington, and the administration of township affairs. During its last years the citizens of Wellington often slighted it, but were as often compelled to re-open its doors in emergencies, and within its venerable walls, exercise the grandest right of an American citizen, the right of suffrage. Other buildings were used for town purposes, but the town houses of 1829 and 1846 were the only buildings built for town houses before the present superb structure was erected.

(To be Continued.)

## News From the County Seat.

The matters disposed of on the call of the docket are as follows:

L. B. Smith vs T. B. Matthews et al, pre-closure of mortgage; decree for plaintiff and order of sale of mortgaged premises.

Therissa Osterman vs John Linden et al, replevin; continued.

Ella McArdle vs J. M. Worthington, money only; appeal; settled at defendant's costs.

Catherine McArdle vs J. M. Worthington, money only; settled at defendant's costs.

Frank Johnson vs C. B. Ingersoll, money only; appeal; passed for settlement.

Christ Wilhelm vs Gustave Haupt, appeal by defendant; appeal dismissed.

Lewis Volkert vs same; same entry.

August Harmon vs same; same entry.

Mahlon J. Young vs George M. Arnold, accounting of partnership affairs and equitable relief; continued.

Mary C. Hall executrix vs E. D. Merriam et al, money only; default, judgment for plaintiff, \$583.35.

Sarah A. Wilson vs Sophia E. Seeley, admx, money only; judgment for plaintiff, \$1000.

Geo. H. Gates vs L. E. Lemont, dissolution of partnership, accounting and equitable relief; settled.

Henry Kane vs George L. Seeley; settled.

Henry Hirsching vs Geo. L. Seeley; settled and costs paid.

Otto F. Hagamen vs E. D. Fisher; default, judgment for plaintiff \$700.

Fred Albrecht et al, vs Geo. L. Seeley, money only; default, judgment for plaintiff, \$1888.53.

Cecilia C. Kollmyer vs Walter G. Kollmyer et al, to cancel mortgage, quiet title and equitable relief; motion to remove case to U. S. Court.

Ross A. Harris vs Charles D. Noble et al, accounting, foreclosure and equitable relief; settled at defendant's costs.

Horr, Warner & Co vs Benjamin B. Kelley et al; default, judgment for plaintiff, \$25.8 per cent; judgment for defendant A. R. Clark, \$1848.28, 7 per cent; order of sale of mortgaged premises.

Mary King vs Verntu Williams, cognovit; judgment by confession, \$183.77.

## \$1,000 REWARD

### Will be given for guessing nearest the number of "QUICK MEAL" GASOLINE STOVES

sold between January 1st and August 31st, 1886  
The advantage of this stove over all others is the simplicity and ease with which it can be opened, closed and regulated. There are no thumb screws to turn, to burn the fingers and confuse people. The patent lever valve is a "dead open and shut." The fact is, no one can use it wrong.

Any person who will purchase One Dollar's worth of goods of me or pay on account, will be entitled to a guess. This offer is only open to June 1st, 1886.

J. W. WILBUR, Wellington, O.

**New Drug Store.**  
Patent Medicines, Perfumes,  
**F. D. Felt.**  
**F. D. FELT**  
**F. D. Felt.**  
Three doors west of B. L. W. & Co., in  
R. J. Robinson's west room,  
**EVERYTHING NEW AND FRESH**

## The Truth Stated!

### TALK IS CHEAP.

## FURNITURE!

But you can buy more and better  
for less money, of  
**A. G. & G. L. COUCH**  
Than at any other place. Good Reasons Why! We have the largest stock in Lorain County to select from. We are the oldest furniture dealers in the county. Our long experience gives us advantages others have not. Our sales exceed by far those of our competitors, which enables us to sell for less profit.

**NAPOLÉON!**  
The Percheron-Norman Horse.  
Will stand for service at his stable, 1 mile west and 1½ miles south of Pittsfield Center, all week days except Tuesdays, when he will be at F. J. Betts', 1½ miles east of Camden Center, and Saturdays, when he will be at the American House Stables, Wellington, from May 1st until July 4th, 1886.  
NAPOLÉON stands about 16½ hands high, and weighs, when in fair condition, 1,500 pounds. Is a dark, dapple iron gray, a good worker, single or double, a good traveler for a horse of his weight, of fine carriage and gentle disposition.  
PEDIGREE.—Sired by Silverball; he by the old Pleasant Valley Horse, imported by Wellington, Co., of Darby Plains; his dam by old Dock, the Becker Horse, imported in 1831. Silverball's dam was sired by Norman Lion, and her dam by Godol, the best of his kind for kind disposition and quickness.  
TERMS.—Eight Dollars to insure a living colt to stand and suck the mare—payable when the colt is three days old. All mares sold before foaling time, will be considered with foal, and charges payable at the time of sale of said mare.  
H. BETTS, Pittsfield, Ohio.  
All accidents at owner's risk. Call and see him.

**COCO!**  
Imported French Coach Horse.  
Will stand for service at his stable, 1 mile west and 1½ miles south of Pittsfield Center, all week days, except Tuesdays, when he will be at F. J. Betts', 1½ miles east of Camden Center, and Saturdays, when he will be at the American House Stables, Wellington, from May 1st, until July 4th, 1886.  
COCO stands about 16 hands high and weighs, when in fair condition, 1,350 pounds. Is a strictly pure bred French Horse, bred in France; foaled in 1876, imported to America in 1879, by James Buchanan, of Gilmah, Ill. Coco is a dark mahogany bay, has a clean, smooth, flat leg and round body; gentle disposition, and good to work, single or double.  
TERMS.—Ten Dollars to insure mare with foal, if paid by April 1st, 1887. All mares sold before foaling time will be considered with foal, and charges payable at the time of sale of said mare.  
H. BETTS, Pittsfield, Ohio.  
All accidents at owner's risk. Call and see him.

—I have on hand a large stock of—  
**CARRIAGES, WAGONS and BUGGIES**  
of every description of my own manufacture, together with an assortment of fancy work, at prices to meet the times  
Repairing done promptly and at the lowest rates.  
**T. DOLAND.**

## TAKE—

### SIMMONS

## LIVER REGULATOR

For all Diseases of the  
Liver, Kidneys, Stomach and Spleen.

This purely vegetable preparation, now so celebrated as a Family Medicine, originated in the South in 1828. It acts gently on the Bowels and Kidneys, and corrects the action of the Liver, and is, therefore, the best preparatory medicine, whatever the sickness may prove to be. In all common diseases it will, unassisted by any other medicine, effect a speedy cure.

An Efficacious Remedy.—"I can recommend as an efficacious remedy for all diseases of the Liver, Headache and Dyspepsia, Simmons' Liver Regulator."—LAWRENCE G. WOODMAN, Assistant Postmaster, Philadelphia.

No loss of time, no interruption or stoppage of business, while taking the Regulator.

Children complaining of Colic, Headache, or Sick Stomach, a teaspoonful or more will give relief.

If taken occasionally by patients exposed to MALARIA, will expel the poison and protect them from attack.

A PHYSICIAN'S OPINION.  
I have been practicing medicine for twenty years, and have never been able to put up a vegetable compound that would, like Simmons' Liver Regulator, promptly and effectively move the Liver to action, and at the same time aid (instead of weakening) the digestive and assimilative powers of the system. L. M. HINTON, M. D., Washington, Ark.

SEE THAT YOU GET THE GENUINE.  
PREPARED BY  
J. H. Zeilin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.  
PRICE, \$1.00.

**MEN ONLY**  
A QUICK, PERMANENT, CERTAIN CURE FOR  
Losing Failing, Nervousness,  
Weakness, Lack of Strength,  
Vigor or Development.  
Caused by Indiscretions, excesses, etc. Restores in a day. Cures usually within a month. No Dosing or Quackery. Positive Proof, full description and order of advice in plain sealed envelope. Free. RILEY MEDICAL CO., P.O. Drawer 174, Buffalo, N.Y.

**The Old Doctor**  
NARVOUS, PALID, WEAKNESS AND  
DEBILITY, FEMALE  
A Life Experience. Remarkable and quick cures. Trial Packages. Send stamp for sealed particulars. Address  
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**CAJUN STAF**  
**SALERATUS SODA**  
Best in the World.  
For sale by Baldwin, Laundon, Windecker & Co., Wellington, O.

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## CONSTIPATION!

There is no medium through which disease so often attacks the system as by Constipation, and there is no other ill flesh is heir to, more apt to be neglected, from the fact material inconvenience may not be immediately felt from irregular action of the bowels. When there is not regular action, the retention of decayed and effete matter, with its poisonous gases, soon poisons the whole system by being absorbed into it, causing piles, fistula, headache, impure blood and many other serious affections. **BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS** will immediately relieve, and one bottle positively cure or relieve any case of Constipation.

"Was troubled for a year with torpid liver and indigestion, and after trying everything imaginable, used **BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS**. The first bottle revived me and the second cured me entirely."—J. S. Williamson, Rochester, N. Y.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.  
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.  
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.  
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

We should economize at all times, but more especially when times are close. Observe the purchases of your thrifty neighbors. More substantial benefits can be obtained from a fifty-cent bottle of Dr. J. C. Bilew's Positive Cure than a dollar bottle of any other cough remedy. It is a prompt, safe and pleasant cure for all throat and lung troubles. Sold and endorsed by druggists. 421-1

Careful attention to diet is the best guard against disease. It is a fact which all should know, that over-eating not only corrupts the blood but destroys nerve force and induces dyspepsia, jaundice, bad breath, piles, pimples, low spirits, headache, ague, malaria, and all stomach and liver troubles. Dr. Jones' Red Clover Tonic quickly cures the above diseases. Can be taken by the most delicate. Price 50 cents, of druggists. 421-1

The "Union" sewing machine, with the reversible feed, is self-threading through-out, except the eye of the needle.